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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

11 July 1983

G. L. Berkin, Head
Security Classification Management
Branch
Security Policy Division
Office of the Chief of Naval
Operations
Department of Navy
Washington, D.C. 20350

Dear Mr. Berkin:

In reply to your Ser 009P33/C366860 of 8 July, we have reviewed Intelligence Information Report Number 6 814 5018-83, dated 20 January 1983. The Central Intelligence Agency has no objection to the declassification and release of paragraph 9 to former President Nixon. We would suggest, however, that before its release that the Department of State should pass on this paragraph to judge if there are any foreign relations implications involved. Mr. Thomas Ainsworth of State's Classification/Declassification Center on 632-0565 can render this assistance.

Sincerely,



Chief, Classification Review Division
Office of Information Services
Directorate of Administration

Enclosure

Distribution:

Orig - Addressee w/enclosure
✓ 1 - CRD Liaison w/Navy w/enclosure
1 - CRD Chrono w/o enclosure
1 - OIS Chrono w/o enclosure
DDA/OIS/CRI [] kgr (11 July 1983)

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20350

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IN REPLY REFER TO
Ser 009P33/C366860

08 JUL 1983

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(Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1))

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF, CLASSIFICATION REVIEW DIVISION, OFFICE
OF INFORMATION SERVICES, DIRECTORATE OF
ADMINISTRATION, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Subj: Declassification Review; request for

Encl: (1) IIR No. 6 814 5018-83, dated 20 Jan 1983

1. Admiral Rickover, USN (Ret) has requested permission to release to former President Nixon, paragraph 9 of enclosure (1).

2. It is requested therefore, that this office be advised if paragraph 9 of enclosure (1) can be released in its entirety to former President Nixon.

3. An expeditious reply would be appreciated. The point of contact for this matter is Mr. David Clayton, telephone 694-2251.

[Signature]
G. L. BERKIN
Head, Security
Classification
Management Branch
Security Policy Division

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C O N F I D E N T I A L N O F O R M

INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

Individual Items Of This Report Are
UNCLASSIFIED Unless Otherwise Indicated

This Is An Information Report, Not Finally Evaluated Intelligence

COUNTRY: CHINA (CH)

REPORT NO: 6 814 5018-83

TITLE: ADMIRAL RICKOVER MEETING WITH HU YAOBANG (U)

DATE OF INFO: 821221

(U) MM DO:

REPORT DATE: 830120

(U) MM DO:

ORIGINATOR:

REQ REFERENCES: T-XXX-42015

25X1

SOURCE: MEMBER OF RICKOVER PARTY

SUMMARY: (C/NOFORN) DURING ADMIRAL RICKOVER'S VISIT TO CHINA HE MET WITH CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY ((HU)) YAOBANG ON 21 DECEMBER 1982. PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY HU BRIEFLY EXPLAINED THE CHINESE POLITICAL SYSTEM, TOLD HOW HE GOT HIS CURRENT POSITION, SAID THAT CHINA IS TRYING TO TRAIN YOUNGER LEADERS, GAVE A BRIEF RESUME OF SINO/US RELATIONS IN THE LAST 30 YEARS WHICH INCLUDED THE PRESENT TAIWAN PROBLEM, SAID THAT HE HOPED THE U.S. WOULD SHARE IT'S SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH CHINA AND THAT ADM RICKOVER WOULD BE HIS HIGH RANKING ADVISOR, THAT CHINA IS PREPARED TO SPEND ONE TO TWO BILLION BUYING TECHNOLOGY AS LONG AS IT IS NEW TECHNOLOGY AND HAS NO POLITICAL PRECONDITIONS ATTACHED, COMMENTED ON THE CONTRIBUTION TO US/SINO RELATIONS MADE BY EX-PRESIDENT NIXON AND DR KISSINGER, DISCUSSED NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL WAR, AND SAID THAT CHINA HAD BOTH NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND NUCLEAR SUBMARINES. ADM RICKOVER SAID THAT HE CAME TO CHINA TO HELP THE CHINESE AND THAT IF HE COULD SEE A NUCLEAR SUBMARINE THAT HE COULD PROBABLY OFFER SOME GOOD ADVICE, THAT MUCH TECHNOLOGY WAS PUBLIC INFORMATION IN THE U.S. AND THAT CHINA SHOULD USE THIS TECHNOLOGY, THAT HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO BE GENERAL SECRETARY HU'S ADVISOR, THAT THE CHINESE WERE NOT MAKING ADEQUATE USE OF THE TALENTS RESIDENT IN THE U.S. EMBASSY AND THAT THIS WAS A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF WHERE INFORMATION WAS AVAILABLE AND PEOPLE WERE TRYING TO BE HELPFUL BUT BECAUSE CHINA WAS BEING SO SECRETIVE IT WAS DENYING ITSELF OF THE VERY HELP IT WANTED.

10:00

(C/NOFORN) DETAILS: ADMIRAL RICKOVER, WHO WAS INVITED TO VISIT CHINA BY THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION FOR FRIENDSHIP WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES

DECLASSIFICATION

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PROCEDURE SECTION

AVAILABLE PUBLICLY WITH CONSENT

NO US/COOP SOURCES

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CLASSIFIED BY:

DECLASSIFY ON: 20 JAN 89

Encl (1) to SMr

009P33/C266860

Of 8 JUL 83

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PREVIOUS EDITION IS OBSOLETE.

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6. (C/NOFORN) THE ADMIRAL ASKED HU IF HE THOUGHT HE (ADMIRAL R.) CAME OVER TO CHINA TO SPY ON THEM. HU SAID NO, THAT IF WE THOUGHT THAT, WE NEVER WOULD HAVE INVITED YOU.

7. (C/NOFORN) HU ASKED THE ADMIRAL WHO HE THOUGHT KNEW CHINA BEST, AND IF THE ADMIRAL THOUGHT HENRY KISSINGER KNEW A LOT ABOUT CHINA. THE ADMIRAL REPLIED, HOW COULD HE (KISSINGER) KNOW A LOT ABOUT CHINA AFTER ONLY ONE OR TWO VISITS? HU SAID THAT DR KISSINGER STUDIED ABOUT CHINA FOR OVER 20 YEARS. THE ADMIRAL SAID THAT OUR AMBASSADOR HAS SPENT MANY YEARS IN CHINA AND KNOWS MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE. HU SAID THAT MR NIXON AND DR KISSINGER MADE GOOD CONTRIBUTIONS TO US/SINO RELATIONS BUT THAT EVEN THESE TWO PEOPLE DON'T KNOW CHINA VERY WELL. HU SAID HE HAD READ SEVERAL OF DR KISSINGER'S BOOKS. IN ONE BOOK KISSINGER SAID THAT RUSSIA AND CHINA WERE READY TO FIGHT, TO GO TO WAR, BUT THIS WAS A WRONG JUDGMENT. "I (HU) WANT TO TELL YOU IN THE PAST 33 YEARS WE HAVE HAD NO WORRY THAT ANYONE WOULD ATTACK CHINA. CHINA IS TOO VALUABLE. NOT EVEN WITH SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS COULD ANY ONE COUNTRY WIPE US OUT. IF SOMEONE SAID THEY COULD DESTROY US WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE VERY DESTRUCTIVE, THEY WOULD WANT TO LIBERATE THE PEOPLE AND OR OCCUPY OUR TERRITORY AND PLUNDER THE WEALTH; BUT USING NUCLEAR WEAPONS WOULD KILL THE PEOPLE AND DESTROY THE COUNTRY SO WHAT WOULD BE THE PURPOSE OF USING THEM?" THE ADMIRAL ADDED THAT NO ONE WOULD EVER WIN IN A NUCLEAR WAR, THAT THERE WOULD BE EXTREME DESTRUCTION ON ALL SIDES, THAT IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT THE GREAT POWERS GET TOGETHER AND OUTLAW NUCLEAR WAR. HU SAID THAT CHINA'S MILITARY PRINCIPLE IS TO DEVELOP SOME NUCLEAR WEAPONS; IN FACT, THAT THEY HAVE DEVELOPED SOME NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND SOME NUCLEAR SUBMARINES; HOWEVER, THEY MAINLY DEPEND ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS. IN A CONVENTIONAL WAR HU SAID, "IF ANYONE INVADED CHINA, WE COULD IMMEDIATELY ARM 20 MILLION PEOPLE. THE U.S. SPENT OVER SIX YEARS IN VIETNAM AND HAD OVER 200,000 CASUALTIES; THE RUSSIANS HAVE BEEN IN AFGHANISTAN FOR THREE YEARS AND WITH WHAT RESULTS. SOME PEOPLE GIVE SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS TOO MUCH CREDIT. CHINA HAS MORE THAN 200 MILLION BETWEEN THE AGES OF 15 AND 28; THAT'S MORE THAN THE TOTAL U.S. POPULATION. SO IF ANYONE WANTS TO INVADE CHINA, WE CAN WIPE THEM OUT". ANOTHER POINT, HU SAID, IS THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE WILL CHINA MAKE AGGRESSIVE WAR FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPANSION. THIS IS ANOTHER AREA WHERE DR KISSINGER DIDN'T MAKE THE RIGHT ASSESSMENT.

8. (C/NOFORN) HU THEN CHANGED THE SUBJECT AND SAID TO THE ADMIRAL, "I AM TOLD YOU CAME HERE TO HELP US WITH TECHNOLOGY. OUR THANKS TO YOU. OUR PEOPLE IN FOREIGN TRADE CAN HELP ARRANGE DISCUSSIONS, AND OF COURSE WE WILL BE TALKING TO SECRETARY SHULTZ DURING HIS VISIT IN FEBRUARY. AGAIN WE WOULD LIKE TO LEARN ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY FROM YOU AND HAVE DISCUSSIONS."

9. (C/NOFORN) HU TOLD THE ADMIRAL THAT PRESIDENT NIXON HAD SENT HIM THREE BOOKS WHICH PRESIDENT NIXON HAD WRITTEN BUT THAT HE (HU) WAS IGNORANT AND HAD TO HAVE THE BOOKS TRANSLATED. TWO OF THE BOOKS HAD ALREADY BEEN TRANSLATED AND THE THIRD, "LEADERS", WILL BE TRANSLATED SOON. HU SAID THAT HE THOUGHT PRESIDENT NIXON WAS A VERY FIRM PERSON. THE ADMIRAL SAID THAT PRESIDENT NIXON IS A MUCH GREATER MAN THAN IS GENERALLY THOUGHT, AND THAT HE WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS A GREAT PRESIDENT. THE ADMIRAL MENTIONED THAT FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON SELECTED HIM AS HIS SCIENCE ADVISOR WHEN HE (THEN VICE-PRESIDENT) WENT TO RUSSIA. HU SAID THAT HE HAD NOT RESPONDED TO NIXON AS YET. THE ADMIRAL SAID THAT WASN'T GOOD ETIQUETTE. HU ASKED THE ADMIRAL IF HE WOULD BRING BACK HIS GREETINGS TO PRESIDENT NIXON AND ADDED THAT NOW HE (HU) HAS MET NIXON, CARTER AND RICKOVER.

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THE ADMIRAL SAID THAT FORMER PRESIDENT CARTER ONCE WORKED FOR HIM AND THAT HE TRAINED HIM. HU SAID THAT PRESIDENT CARTER SENT HIM A NEW YEARS CARD AND ASKED IF THE ADMIRAL WOULD SEE HIM; THE ADMIRAL SAID YES. HU ASKED THE ADMIRAL TO TELL PRESIDENT CARTER THAT HE PLANNED TO SEND HIM A CARD. THE ADMIRAL SAID HE WOULD, AND THEN ASKED HU TO SEND HIM ONE ALSO.

10. (C/NOFORN) THE ADMIRAL ASKED HU HOW HE GOT HIS JOB. HU REPLIED THAT THE PEOPLE WANTED TO ELECT DENG XIAOPING AS THE LEADER OF THE PARTY BUT DENG REFUSED SO HE (HU) WAS ELECTED. DENG XIAOPING SAID HE WAS TOO OLD. HU MENTIONED THAT MANY PEOPLE THOUGHT GENERAL MARSHALL WOULD BE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. BUT IT WAS GENERAL EISENHOWER WHO WAS FINALLY ELECTED. THE ADMIRAL ASKED IF HE (RICKOVER) COULD RUN FOR OFFICE IN CHINA. HU SAID NO, THAT THE ADMIRAL COULDN'T RUN FOR OFFICE, BUT HE (HU) HOPED HE (RICKOVER) WOULD BE HIS HIGH RANKING ADVISOR. THE ADMIRAL REPLIED THAT HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO BE HU'S ADVISOR. HU THEN MADE A HUMOROUS REFERENCE TO HIS SIZE SAYING THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL WAS ELECTED FROM MANY SHORT MEN.

11. (C/NOFORN) IN REFERENCE TO THE NEED FOR QUALITY LEADERSHIP IN CHINA, HU SAID THAT THEY MUST FOSTER GOOD RELATIONS AMONG THEIR LEADERS FOR WITHOUT GOOD RELATIONS THERE IS NO FUTURE FOR CHINA. CHINA IS NOT LIKE OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE THE LEADERS MUST RUN FOR OFFICE. AT THIS POINT, WANG BINGNAN SPOKE OUT SAYING THAT HU YAOBANG WAS SELECTED AS PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY BECAUSE OF HIS MORE THAN 50 YEARS OF WORK FOR THE PARTY.

12. (C/NOFORN) AFTER A SHORT PAUSE IN THE CONVERSATION, ADMIRAL RICKOVER EXPRESSED HIS PLEASURE AND THANKS TO HU FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF MEETING HIM, AND SAID THAT CHINA WAS INDEED MOST FORTUNATE TO HAVE SUCH AN OUTSTANDING LEADER.

9B. (C/NOFORN) ORIG CMTS: 1. (C) THE FACT THAT HU YAOBANG WANTED TO HAVE A MEETING WITH ADMIRAL RICKOVER WAS IN ITSELF SIGNIFICANT AS UP UNTIL THE RICKOVER VISIT HU HAS ONLY AGREED TO MEET WITH TWO AMERICANS, FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON AND FORMER PRESIDENT CARTER. DURING THE MEETING HU SAID THAT THE PRC IS MORE THAN 50 YEARS BEHIND THE U.S. IN TECHNOLOGY AND ASKED ADM RICKOVER TO BE HIS "HIGH RANKING ADVISOR", AND ADMIRAL RICKOVER SAID HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO ACT IN THAT CAPACITY. HU ALSO MENTIONED CHINA'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND NUCLEAR SUBMARINES WHICH ARE FIELDS IN WHICH ADM RICKOVER IS AN EXPERT. IT WOULD SEEM FROM THIS MEETING THAT THE CHINESE WANTED TO OBTAIN ASSISTANCE FROM ADM RICKOVER IN THESE AREAS, AND THAT ADM RICKOVER WAS WILLING TO PROVIDE SOME HELP. HOWEVER, DURING EARLIER MEETINGS AND VISITS THE ADM COMPLETED BEFORE SEEING HU, HE WAS ASKED AND ANSWERED SEVERAL SPECIFIC QUESTIONS, ESPECIALLY WHEN HE VISITED THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY IN BEIJING. AT THIS MEETING AND OTHERS THE ADM DISCOVERED THAT THE CHINESE WERE UNWILLING TO ANSWER EVEN QUESTIONS OF COMMON KNOWLEDGE. IN SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ADM, BOTH WANG BINGNAN AND LIU HUAQING WERE RELUCTANT TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC ANSWERS ON A GIVE-AND-TAKE BASIS. ADMIRAL RICKOVER FOUND THE CHINESE PENCHANT FOR WHAT HE CONSIDERED NEEDLESS SECRECY AND THEIR ALL-TAKE-AND-NO-GIVE ATTITUDE ANNOYING AND INCREASINGLY IRRITATING, AND HE SO STATED. HU WAS THE ONLY CHINESE LEADER TO DATE THE ADMIRAL MET WHO SPOKE OPENLY AND FREELY.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20350

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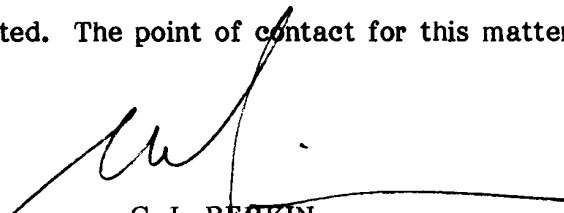
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